



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

By: Shogo MURAMATSU et al

P.T.O. Confirmation No. 7398

Serial Number: 09/423,981

Group Art Unit: 1775

Filed: February 18, 2000

Examiner: Jason L. Savage

For: ALUMINUM-ALLOY BASED SLIDING MATERIAL

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 31, 2005

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Documents AF through AI were cited in the European Office Action dated December 29, 2004. A copy of the Office Action is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee.

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can,

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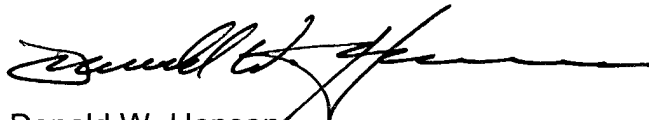
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in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

A check is attached hereto which covers the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Donald W. Hanson  
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Reg. No. 27,133

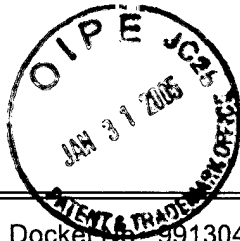
Atty. Docket No. 991304  
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.  
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Dwh/nk



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO 1449; Search Report; 4 References; Check for \$180.00



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No.: 991304	Serial No. 09/423,981
	Applicant(s): Shogo Muramatsu et al	
	Filing Date: February 18, 2000	Group Art Unit: 1775

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA					
_____	AB					
_____	AC					
_____	AD					
_____	AE					

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____ AF 0861912	9-2-98	EP	
_____ AG 0939224	9-1-99	EP	
_____ AH 0825272	2-25-98	EP	
_____ AI 0411577	2-6-91	EP	
_____ AJ			

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	European Search Report dated December 29, 2004.
_____	AL	

Examiner	Date Considered
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